

Dear Library Patrons,

Beginning November 1st, you will notice some changes in the library's policies. The biggest change will come in the form of a library card fee for our patrons who reside outside the City of Alliance.

The City of Alliance has a beautiful and well-maintained library that serves an average of 250 individuals per day. We also are home to one of the largest collections in the State of Nebraska. That being said, it also requires an increasing amount of funding to maintain the collection and the facility.

Libraries across the State of Nebraska are feeling the effects of budget restraints within the local government. The Alliance Public Library Board made the suggestion to begin charging a fee for people residing outside our City as a proactive approach to maintaining a highly-accredited library. The library is funded primarily through the collection of City property tax and utility franchise fees paid by the residents within the City. It is not funded by County or State taxes. The majority of library funding comes from the citizens of Alliance. Therefore, the Board made the request to the City Council to charge patrons who reside outside the City for cards to assist with the costs of maintaining the library. During their October 3, 2013 meeting, the City Council approved that request. By receiving this additional funding, we are protecting the services we are able to provide to all our patrons who enjoy the library. This is a way for those who are not City of Alliance residents to be able to continue use of the library collection while more actively contributing to its support. This also will insure that services to our patrons will not only continue, but be able to expand as well.

This library is an ever-changing environment, and all of us who act in its advocacy hope our non-resident patrons will understand that support for the library should come equally from those who use it.

Sincerely,

Stephanie O'Connor
Alliance Public Library Director